



Heat Relief Network Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Heat Relief Network?

A: The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) coordinates the Heat Relief Network, a network of service providers, faith-based groups, municipalities, businesses and caring residents mobilizing to provide hydration and heat refuge for people in need.

In 2015, there were 75 hydration stations and refuge locations throughout the valley. Network participants provide water and refuge for people needing heat relief.

The network offers a place for people to go who would otherwise be on the streets.

Network participants can serve as a collection point for water bottle and basic needs donations. In 2015, there were 47 water collection points in the valley. The network is voluntary and open to any agency or organization wanting to join.

The ultimate goal of the Heat Relief Network is to prevent heat-related deaths.

Q: Why is the Heat Relief Network Important?

A: A number of heat-related deaths during the summer months tragically underscore the importance of recognizing the dangers of extreme heat.

July is typically the most deadly month in Arizona when it comes to heat-caused deaths.

The high daytime temperatures, coupled with the high nighttime temperatures, make this time of year very dangerous. The high night temperatures do not allow for the body to cool down and can result in more people being at risk.

According to the National Weather Service, the Phoenix area averages 110 days of temperatures above 100 degrees. It is important to protect yourself from the dangers of heat exhaustion and heat stroke.

Prolonged exposure to heat can affect anyone. Even healthy people should take precautions during extremely high temperatures.

Vulnerable populations like older adults, children, people who are experiencing homelessness, and those who work outdoors need to take extra precautions.

Q: What is being done to inform the public on the dangers of the heat and provide heat relief?

A: MAG has partnered with nonprofit organizations, the faith-based community, cities and towns in the region, and others to educate the public on the dangers of the heat and provide heat relief maps.

MAG facilitates the Heat Relief Network Partner form where community stakeholders can submit their information to be included as a partner in the network. MAG staff creates printable Heat Relief Maps to indicate heat relief resources available in the community. The maps will identify:

- Water collection sites (water only)
- General collection sites (water, hats, unused sunscreen, long sleeved clothing, snacks, sunglasses)
- Refuge (shade/cooling center) only sites
- Refuge & hydration sites
- Emergency hydration sites (only operates during extreme heat warnings issued by the National Weather Service)
- Water-only sites

An interactive map also is available online and includes all of the locations. The maps will be available on MAG's Website at www.azmag.gov/heatrelief.

Q: Where are the maps being distributed?

A: Heat Relief Maps will be distributed at public libraries, family service centers, food banks, shelters, municipalities, emergency rooms throughout the region, and by emergency responders.

Q: What are some important tips to avoid heat-related illness?

A: Some tips to avoid heat-related illness are:

- ✓ Increase fluid intake, regardless of activity level. Staying hydrated is extremely important.
- ✓ Limit exercise or outdoor activity between the hours of 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM.
- ✓ When outdoors, wear a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 15 and reapply often. Wear a hat, lightweight clothing and sunglasses.
- ✓ Rest frequently in shady or cool areas to give the body's temperature a chance to recover and cool down.
- ✓ Never leave infants, children or pets inside a parked vehicle.

- ✓ Check on elderly neighbors to make sure their air conditioning is working and in use. Take advantage of free air-conditioning by visiting locations like shopping malls, the library, or other heat refuge locations provided on the map.

Q: What can people do if they want to help?

A: Donations of bottled water are needed. If you would like to contribute bottled water to the Heat Relief Network, you can donate to any of the regional collection sites listed on the collection map.

Never leave children or pets inside a parked vehicle.

Help inform your friends and neighbors of the dangers of extreme heat.

For additional information on regional heat relief efforts, please contact Celina Brun at (602) 254-6300 ex. 5130 or cbrun@azmag.gov.